CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS

III

ORIGINAL STORY
ICHIROU SAKAKI

ART
SHINTA SAKAYAMA

CHARACTER DESIGN
NAMANIKU ATK (NITROPLUS)

episode 11:

The Emperor's Remains

YOU DEFEATED NICOLAI ...?

YEAH, AND AFTER YOU WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF PICKING THAT UP FOR ME TOO. SORRY ABOUT THAT.

BUT IF YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN THIS GUY'S LIFE, THEN YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND KEEP IT...

SU (SSK)

...AND I'LL KILL HIM.

CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS

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SO WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?

GIRI (GRIT)

HE DID GIVE ME SOME TROU-BLE...

...BUT NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SWING MY ARM DOWN, AND IT'S OVER.

GA (LUNGE)

WAIT, VIVI.

HE'S SERIOUS.

YOU WANTED TO KNOW, DIDN'T YOU?

WHO THE GIRL IS?

IT'S ALL RIGHT, VIVI.

HE HAS A RIGHT TO KNOW.

MAS-TER GILLET, YOU ...!

YOU WON'T GAIN ANY-THING BY HELPING HER.

IN FACT, YOU'LL BE TURNING THE ENTIRE WORLD AGAINST YOU.

I DOUBT YOU'RE PREPARED TO ENDURE THAT.

...MAYBE I'D GET WHAT YOU WERE SAYING IF YOU'D STOP TALKING IN RIDDLES.

SIGH...

THE GAZ EMPIRE.

...HN?

SURELY EVEN YOU HAVE HEARD THE NAME.

POPULAR OPINION HELD THAT IT BELONGED SOLELY TO THE EMPEROR HIMSELF.

BUT THE POWER DESCRIBED THUS WAS NOT ACTUALLY THE EMPIRE'S POWER.

IT BOASTED ENORMOUS, EVEN EXCESSIVE, POWER.

NO ONE HAS SEEN ITS LIKE IN THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF THE VERBIST CONTINENT.

THE GAZ EMPIRE.

ARTHUR GAZ, RULER OF THE GAZ EMPIRE.

"THE FORBIDDEN EMPEROR."

"THE UNDYING KING."

"THE MONSTER."

"THE GREAT SAGE."

"THE SUPER EMPEROR."

"THE MAD WARMONGER."

"THE DEMON KING."

THAT WAS HOW GREAT HIS INFLUENCE WAS OVER VERBIST FOR MORE THAN 300 YEARS.

THESE WERE ALL THE NAMES EMPEROR ARTHUR GAZ MADE FOR HIMSELF.

YEAH. SO WHAT'S YOUR POINT?

HE WAS STRUCK DOWN IN THE BATTLE OF THE GAZ IMPERIAL CAPITAL.

BUT EVEN A DEMON KING WHO REIGNS OVER HIS EMPIRE FOR 300 YEARS IS NOT IMMORTAL.

YOU'RE LOOKING RIGHT AT THIS, AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T REALIZED?

...YOU DON'T MEAN ...

I DO.

THIS HAND BELONGS TO ARTHUR GAZ, RULER OF THE GAZ EMPIRE.

THE SILVER-HAIRED GIRL WHO HIRED YOU...

...IS CHAIKA GAZ...

...DAUGHTER OF EMPEROR GAZ.

EMPEROR GAZ'S... DAUGHTER!?

YES.

SHE SURVIVED THE BATTLE OF THE GAZ IMPERIAL CAPITAL FIVE YEARS AGO.

.....

NO, WAIT. WHAT IF HER ATTEN-DANTS HELPED HER...?

SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN A LITTLE GIRL WHEN THE BATTLE HAPPENED. HOW DID SHE SURVIVE?

CHAIKA CAN'T POSSIBLY BE PAST HER MID-TEENS.

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE... YOU...THAT DAY...I WAS SURE...

OR...

THAT'S ABSURD.

ARE YOU SAYING SHE SURVIVED THAT BATTLE... ALL ON HER OWN?

YOU WERE DEAD...!

WHY NOT?

SHE'S JUST ONE GIRL. WHY CAN'T YOU LEAVE HER ALONE?

I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS EITHER.

BUT WE CANNOT LEAVE HER TO HER OWN DEVICES.

EVEN NOW, THERE ARE MORE THAN A FEW ZEALOUS SUPPORTERS OF THE GAZ EMPIRE. YOU MIGHT SAY IT WAS A MIRACLE THAT THE OTHER NATIONS WERE ABLE TO BUILD AN ALLIANCE STRONG ENOUGH TO ATTACK THE CAPITAL AT ALL.

EVEN AFTER HIS DEATH, THE INFLUENCE OF THE FORBIDDEN EMPEROR IS FAR TOO GREAT.

THERE IS EVEN A FACTION INTENT ON REVIVING THE EMPIRE UNDER HIS DAUGHTER, CHAIKA GAZ.

MEAN-WHILE...

...WE HAVE THE REMAINS OF THE DEMON KING, A MAN WHO LIVED FOR 300 YEARS— NO, SOME SAY 500.

NO DOUBT THOSE REMAINS COULD BE USED AS A POWERFUL MAGICAL FUEL.

IF INSTALLED IN A MAGIC GUNDO, ONE COULD CREATE A WEAPON OF UNPARALLELED MAGNITUDE.

THAT WAS PRETTY POWER-FUL.

...SO WAS THAT THE TRICK BEHIND ROBERT'S GUNDO?

...I SEE.

...BASED ON WHAT HE'S SAYING, I'M GUESSING THEY'RE THE "KLIEMANN" BUNCH ROBERT WAS TALKING ABOUT.

...NOW DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

THAT GIRL...

...CAN RIGHTLY BE CALLED THE SEED OF CALAMITY.

THE WORLD IS FINALLY AT PEACE, BUT SHE WOULD PLUNGE IT BACK INTO THE CHAOS OF WAR.

IF WE ARE TO BRING STABILITY TO THE WORLD... CHAIKA GAZ MUST NOT REMAIN A PART OF IT...!

episode 11: END

CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS

NOW DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

CHAIKA GAZ...

...THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF ARTHUR GAZ...

episode 12:
Connected Lives

...MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO GATHER HER FATHER'S REMAINS.

IS WHAT
HE SAYS
TRUE?

.....

ONLY...?

NO...?

<I ONLY WANT TO COLLECT THE PIECES OF MY FATHER AND GIVE HIM A PROPER BURIAL.>

「父の遺体を集めて、ちゃんと埋葬してあげたいだけ」

<I'M ONLY DOING IT...>

「私はそうするだけ……」

<... BECAUSE I HAVE TO!>

「私がやらなきゃ……！」

...FAMILY, HUH...

IT WASN'T THAT FAMILIES WERE A RARE SIGHT IN THE VILLAGE OF ACURA.

BUT WE ALSO HAD A TRADITION OF TAKING IN ORPHANS...

...AND RAISING THEM TO BE SABO-TEURS, AND NO ONE THOUGHT ANYTHING OF IT.

AS AN ORPHAN, I CAN'T RELATE TO CHAIKA.

ARE BLOOD TIES THAT STRONG?

IN ANY CASE, I DO KNOW ONE THING.

THAT IS NOT THE SORT OF EXPRES-SION YOU SHOULD EVER SEE ON THE FACE OF A TEENAGE GIRL.

NOW, THEN.

WHAT WILL MY DEAR BROTHER DO NEXT?

.....

I WILL REPEAT MYSELF UNTIL YOU GET IT THROUGH YOUR HEAD.

SHE WILL BE THE CALAMITY THAT BRINGS WAR BACK TO OUR WORLD.

YOU CAN TAKE HER SIDE...

...BUT IT WILL ONLY LEAD TO YOUR GRUE-SOME DEMISE.

SURELY YOU'RE NOT SUCH A FOOL THAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE GRAVITY OF—

HEH HEH...

HEH HEH HEH.

I JUST HAVE TO LAUGH.

SU (SHK)

IT'D BE FUNNY IF I HEARD YOUR SPIEL AND DIDN'T LAUGH.

...WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

THAT SOUNDS ...

...FAN-TASTIC.

EXACTLY WHAT I'M LOOK-ING FOR.

PLUNGE THE WORLD INTO THE CHAOS OF WAR?

BA (SHOCK)

...!?

THAT'D BE FINE WITH ME.

LET'S BRING IT BACK, THEN...!

I COULD GO FOR AN AGE OF WAR!!

YEAH? SAME TO YOU.

I CANNOT LET THAT STATE-MENT GO UNAD-DRESSED.

YOU... WANT WAR?

I'LL BE TAKING BACK THAT HAND NOW.

ZA (ZSH)

(SU SHK)

MEMORIES FROM MY CHILDHOOD FLASH ACROSS MY MIND.

...AND JUST SO YOU KNOW, THAT'S NOT ALL.

.....I WANTED TO MAKE MY MARK ON THE WORLD.

I DIDN'T WANT TO JUST BE BORN AND DIE.

BACK THEN, I FELT THAT IF I DIED, IT WOULD ALL BE OVER.

THAT DAY CAME AND WENT, AND I WAS HELPLESS. I COULDN'T DO A THING.

IT'S NOT ALL THERE IS TO ME ANYMORE.

BUT THAT'S NOT MY ONLY REASON NOW.

IF YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT HER REASON FOR LIVING IS TO COLLECT THE REMAINS OF HER FATHER...

ZA

ZA (ZSH)

...THEN I...

...WANT TO GRANT HER WISH.

DO
(BOOM)

BA
(SHINK)

!!

CHAIKA!

!?

SU (SHFF)

MASTER GILLET, GET BEHIND ME!!

GA (WHACK)

THE BLIND—!!!

KA (FLASH)

SO SORRY...

...BUT YOU'LL BE TAKING A LITTLE NAP.

DA (DASH)

KN!?

ハァ
HYU (SWISH)

ハ—

GO ONWARD

JA (CHAK)

I'LL BE TAKING THAT BACK.

DON (WHAM)

...!!

DO.
(THUD)

...SAFE...?

IS...

HFF!

HFF!

FATHER'S
...!

GASA
(RUSTLE)

GASA

YEAH!

LET'S GO, CHAIKA!

MM!

AKARI, HOW'S IT GOING ON YOUR END?

I'M ALL PACKED.

I WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU KNOW, JUST IN CASE...YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME ALONG.

WHAT A FOOLISH STATE-MENT.

WHERE MY DARLING BROTHER GOES, I GO.

AKARI, YOU...

HOW MANY TIMES MUST I SAY IT?

IF YOU DIE AND I AM NOT AROUND, I CAN'T STUFF YOU.

I'M GONNA DIE IN AN EPIC EXPLOSION, JUST FOR YOU!

TORU, AKARI...!

CHAIKA, ARE YOU READY TO GO?

.....

REALLY... IS GOOD?

YOU TWO FOLLOW ME...?

REALLY ...

NN?

BUT I AM EMPER-OR'S—

WASHA (RUFFLE)

WASHA

I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?

WELL, WHAT-EVER WE DO, WE CAN'T STAY HERE.

"HIS LORDSHIP" HAS SEEN OUR FACES.

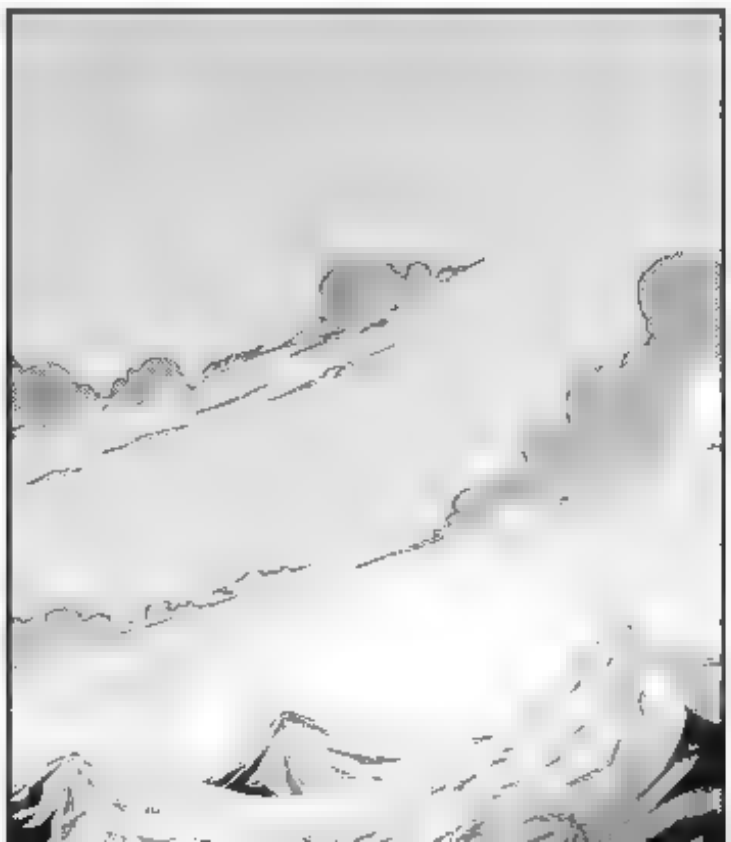
SINCE WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO HIT THE ROAD ANYWAY, WE MIGHT AS WELL HELP YOU WHILE WE'RE AT IT.

I'M GONNA GO AS FAR AS I CAN.

WAR IS FINE WITH ME.

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?

CHAIKA TRABANT WANTS TO FULFILL HER WISH TO BURY HER DEAD FATHER— BADLY ENOUGH TO FALSIFY HER IDENTITY AND PUT HERSELF IN DANGER.



JASMIN ENTRUSTED ME WITH HER FINAL WISH AS SHE HELD HER DEAD BABY OUT TO ME AND BREATHED HER LAST.

I THINK I UNDER-STAND NOW.

THAT IS THEIR PROOF THAT THEY LIVED.

THAT'S HOW OUR LIVES ARE CONNECTED.

episode 12: END

CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS

episode 13:

The Devastation of Bygone Wars

CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS

TORU...!
HFF!
HAFF!

WHAT'S WRONG, CHAIKA?

WAIT ... ...A LITTLE.

BUT WE JUST HAD A REST.

HUH?

L... ...LITTLE REST...

I...

YEAH, OKAY, BUT... ...IF WE DON'T PICK UP THE PACE...

HFF HFF!

AH?

I AM...

...EM-PEROR'S DAUGH-TER.

KI (GLARE)

I AM...

...EM-PEROR'S DAUGH-TER!

I'LL GO FIND A PLACE WE CAN PUT OUR FEET UP.

SIGH...

VERY WELL.

THE STRIFE THAT SPANNED MORE THAN THREE CENTURIES CAME TO A CLOSE WHEN THE NORTHERN POWER, THE GAZ EMPIRE, WHICH HAD BEEN THE CENTER OF THE STORM, FELL.

THE LONG, LONG AGE OF WAR HAS ENDED.

...NO NATION DARED START ANOTHER WAR.

EXHAUSTED WITH THE EFFORTS OF RESTORING THEIR WASTED LAND AND ECONOMIES...

...AND CONFISCATED ITS MAGICAL TECHNOLOGY.

BEFORE LONG, THE OTHER COUNTRIES DIVIDED THE LAND AND WEALTH OF THE GAZ EMPIRE...

IT WAS THE DAWN OF THE AGE OF PEACE.

FOR EXAMPLE, MERCHANTS HAD MADE THEIR FORTUNES PRODUCING MUNITIONS AND MILITARY SUPPLIES.

TRADERS WERE USED TO DOING BUSINESS WITH SOLDIERS IN THE FIELD.

HOWEVER, A SIMPLE DECLARATION OF THE END OF A WAR DOES NOT CHANGE EVERYTHING OVERNIGHT.

THEY HAD LIVED TO FIGHT SINCE BIRTH; THEY COULDN'T CHANGE THEIR WAY OF LIFE SO EASILY.

TORU AND AKARI WERE TRAINED IN THE VILLAGE OF ACURA TO BE SABO-TEURS, MEN AND WOMEN WHO SHINED BRIGHTEST IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE.

ALONG WITH CHAIKA TRA-BANT...

...TIME WAS LEAVING THEM BEHIND.

ZAAA (FSHHH)

GOKU (GULP)

GOKU

GOKU

PAWAH!

KEEP GULPING IT DOWN LIKE THAT, AND YOU'LL GET A STITCH IN YOUR SIDE.

WATER OF LIFE ...!!

BOSO (MUTTER)

...TORU IS SUCH NAG.

HN!?

...FIRST OF ALL, CAN WE REALLY BE SURE THAT YOU'RE THE EMPER-OR'S DAUGH-TER?

HEY. WHY ARE YOU... ...SUD-DENLY GOING OFF ABOUT THAT?

I AM EMPER-OR'S DAUGH-TER! TREAT ME MORE NICE!

I HATE TO INTERRUPT YOUR HIGHNESS IN THE MIDST OF HER OH-SO-CLEVER, SELF-AGGRANDIZING PUNS, BUT YOU'RE GETTING SOAKED!

JOBABABABA (SPLOOOSH)

PRINCE-YESS!

HMM.

UGH, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

AAH!

DO DO

DO DO (BURBL)

SUN (SNIFF) SUN

WHAT IS WITH YOU GUYS? DO YOU ENJOY TORMENTING ME?

MY DEAR BROTHER.

FORGIVE THE SUDDENNESS OF MY QUESTION, BUT WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO SEE A WOMAN IN THE NUDE?

WHAT ABOUT YOU, CHAIKA?

AGREE!

STINK! YUCK!

IT'S BEEN DAYS SINCE WE LEFT TOWN, AND I HAVEN'T HAD A BATH ONCE.

I SIMPLY WISH TO CLEANSE MYSELF.

...WHAT THE ...?

スン

スン

SUN

SUN

LOOK, YOU TWO. LET ME REMIND YOU THAT WE ARE—

ポスン

POSUN (POFF)

...AS I THINK!

TORU STINK MOST!

HE SHOULD TAKE BATH FIRST PRIORITY!

FEEL NICE! YOU NO COME IN, TORU?
WON'T YOU JOIN US, BROTHER?
YEAH, I'LL GO LATER. SERIOUSLY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
WHEE!
HEE HEE!
...HAAH.

DO YOU THINK MAYBE WE COULD DECIDE ON EVEN A GENERAL DIRECTION TO GO IN?

AND HEY, LOOK...!

I KNOW I SAID I WAS GONNA FOLLOW YOU, BUT WHETHER WE'RE LOOKING FOR THIS "IMPORTANT THING"...

...OR TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM THOSE PESTS, WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING IF WE DON'T UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION.

YES!

...AGREE.

HOW GOOD OF YOU TO FINALLY UNDER-STAND...

FATHER'S REMAINS.

CHAPO (SPLISH)

COL-LECT.

SO, UH... WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO, ULTIMATE-LY?

THEY SAY THAT AFTER THEY STRUCK HIM DOWN, THEY CUT HIS BODY INTO PIECES, AND EACH OF THE HEROES OF THE BATTLE TOOK ONE HOME.

ARTHUR GAZ'S REMAINS.

DENY.

DON'T BE SO BLUNT!

OH, BUT...!

THEY PROBABLY WON'T JUST GIVE YOU THE PIECES IF YOU ASK FOR THEM.

DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHO HAS THEM?

AND SHE WANTS TO BURY THOSE PIECES...? IS THAT IT?

...SO THERE'S SOMEONE WHO CAN TELL YOU?

WHO?

I HAVE SOURCE.

... INFOR-MATION.

WHAT THE HECK?

YOU MEAN THOSE "FORCES THAT ARE PLOTTING TO REVIVE THE GAZ EMPIRE" THAT GILLET WAS TALKING ABOUT?

I DON'T KNOW PER-SON.

HMMM

ズズ…

ZUZU (GLOOM)

...I'M GETTING A HEAD-ACHE.

...?

COLLECT FATHER.

THEN BEGIN. ...MY TOMOR-ROW.

...COME TO THINK OF IT...

...WHY WAS THE GAZ EMPIRE DESTROYED?

ZAPAA (SPLASH)

BE... CAUSE ...

OH HONESTLY, BROTHER. DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT CURRENT AFFAIRS?

...WELL, EXCUSE ME.

BUT YOUR IGNO-RANCE IS SO HOT!

SHUT UP, SHUT UP, SHUT UP!

I CAN'T BE MUCH MORE IGNO-RANT THAN YOU!

YOU ARE SO NAIVE, BROTHER. I AM A WOMAN.

WHA ...?

WHILE YOU WERE LYING AROUND AND AROUND AND AROUND AND AROUND IN DELSORENTO ...

...I WAS USING MY FEMININE ARSENAL TO COLLECT INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMMUNITY.

"FEM-ININE ARSE-NAL"? YOU...

WHEN DID YOU...?

HEE HEE. PER-HAPS MY IN-NOCENT BROTH-ER ISN'T READY TO HEAR ABOUT SUCH THINGS ...

YES.

GOKU (GULP)

I AM SPEAKING OF HOUSE-WIVES' GOSSIP.

GABA (JOLT)

DAM-MIT, AKA-RI!

THERE WAS NOT A SINGLE COMPLIMENT IN ANYTHING I SAID!

POSH BLUSH

OH. STOP IT, BROTHER. YOU'RE MAKING ME BLUSH.

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL "COLLECTING INFORMATION," THEN I HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT YOUR LOOSE STANDARDS!

FOR ONE THING, YOU CAN COLLECT AS MANY VAGUELY CREDIBLE RUMORS AS YOU WANT, BUT THEY'RE NOT GONNA DO YOU ANY GOOD.

I THINK YOU'RE THE BIGGEST IDIOT OF THE AGE.

AT ANY RATE, BROTHER, YOU MUSTN'T UNDERESTIMATE THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION THAT PASSES BETWEEN THE WOMEN OF THE WORLD.

WELL, THAT IS A GOOD POINT...

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE, AFTER ALL.

NO, THAT VAGUENESS IS EXACTLY WHY COLLECTING SO MANY OF THEM HELPS ONE SEE THE OUTLINE OF THE TRUTH.

DIDN'T ANYONE EVER TEACH YOU THAT?

HN?

SU (SSK)

SHALL I PUMP SOME SMOKE FROM THAT UNWORKED BRAIN OF YOURS?

!?

...THAT WAS AN INFURIAT-INGLY BEALTIFUL PUFF OF SMOKE, DARLING BROTHER.

SHUUU (FIZZL)

UH...

ZABU

ザッ

YOU JOIN AFTER ALL?

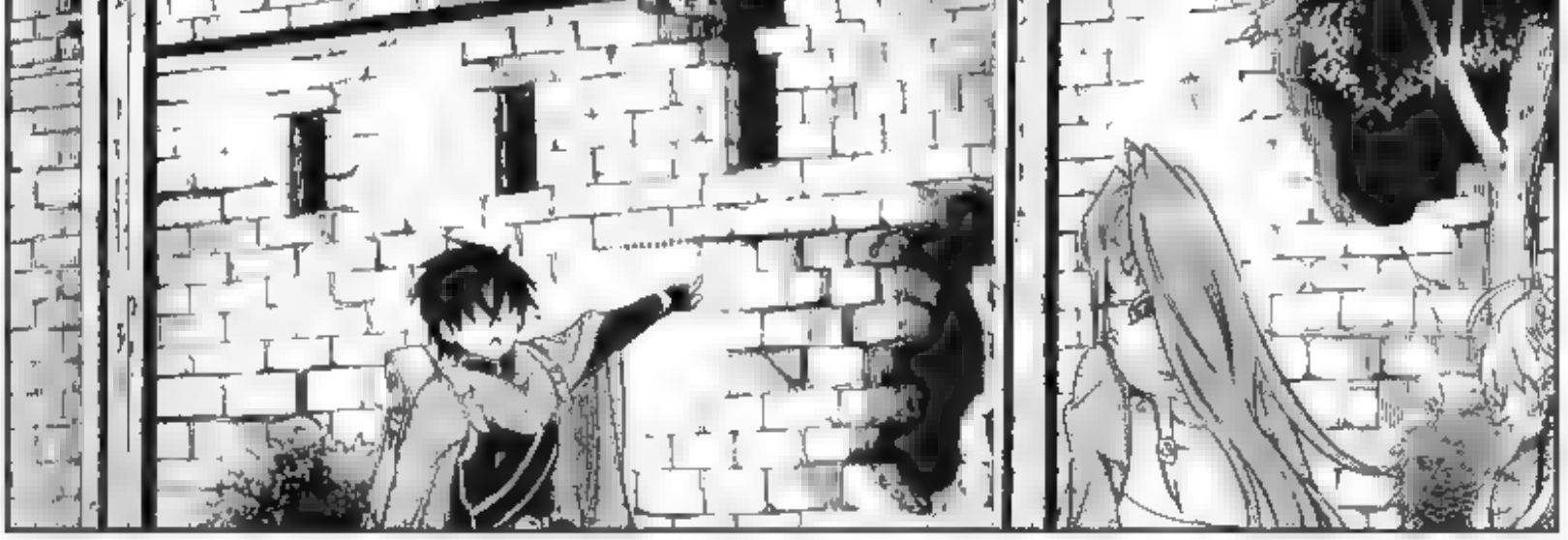
I'M SORRY! STAY AWAY FROM ME!

ZABU (SPLASH)

ザッ

ガサッ

GASA (RUSTLE)



PACHI

PACHI (CRACKLE)

AT ANY RATE, THE GAZ EMPEROR—THE "ROOT OF ALL EVIL"—HAS BEEN DEFEATED.

THAT IS THE BASIC VIEW HELD BY THE WORLD.

...IN AN AGE OF WARRING NATIONS, ISN'T THE BASIC IDEA THAT EVERY OTHER COUNTRY IS THE ENEMY?

うつらうつら

UTSURA UTSURA (DOZE)

BUT I HAVE TO WONDER, WHY DID THEY ONLY HAVE TO DEFEAT THE GAZ EMPIRE?

THAT WAS MAINLY LARGE-SCALE MAGIC USED FOR COMMUNI-CATIONS AND TRANS-PORTA-TION, RIGHT?

BECAUSE ITS SUPERIOR MAGICAL ENGINEERS, STARTING WITH THE EMPEROR HIMSELF, CREATED GUNDOS AND OTHER SIMILAR TECHNOLOGY.

WHY?

APPAR-ENTLY, THE COMMON OPINION IS THAT THE WARS WOULDN'T HAVE GONE ON FOR SO LONG HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE EXISTENCE OF THE GAZ EMPIRE.

ERGO, THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS IN COMMUNI-CATION AND TRANSPORTATION NATURALLY IGNITED THE GREED OF EACH NATION—THEY ALL WANTED TO EXPAND.

IT'S CLEAR THAT OUR STANDARDS OF CULTURE AND CIVILIZA-TION WOULD BE LOWER IF NOT FOR THE GAZ EMPIRE.

IF YOU HAD A WAY TO RULE IT... WOULDN'T YOU WANT TO EXPAND YOUR TERRITORY?

"AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE. AS FAR AS THE HAND CAN REACH."

KARI (BITE)

HMPH...

I AGREE WITH YOU ON THAT POINT, BUT THAT IS THE REASONING THAT HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO THE WORLD.

...I UNDER-STAND THE LOGIC, BUT IT STILL SEEMS A LITTLE HIGH-HANDED.

THAT MAY BE SO.

YOU SEE HOW RUINED EVERY-THING IS, EVEN OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF NO-WHERE.

EVEN THIS BUILDING COULDN'T ESCAPE THE FIRES OF WAR.

THERE WAS PROBABLY SOME WAR OF INFORMATION THAT WE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT.

... BROTHER?

POSUN (POFF)

HEY, CHAIKA. IF YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP, YOU SHOULD CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES FIRST.

MM.

MOZO (WRIGGLE) モゾモゾ MOZO

AAAH, NO, NOT HERE!

I GO CHANGE CLOTHES ...

FURA (WOBBLE) フラフラ FURA

YES, GO DO THAT.

GASA (RUSTLE)
GOSO (RUMMAGE)
GASA
GOSO
GORO (RUMBLE)
GORO
GASASAAA
GORO
GORO
GORO
...IS SHE HALF-ASLEEP !?
GIII (CREEEAK)
キィ...
CHAIKA, WHAT WERE YOU DOING OUT... THERE...
MOSO (RUSTLE)

ARE THOSE YOUR PAJAMAS?

UH, YEAH, I BET IT IS.

per-fect!

In-sula-tion!

BUT WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOUR FASHION SENSE?

TOP PRIORITY. PRACTI-CALITY.

EM-PHA-SIS.

FASA (FWOOSH)

HEY, DON'T ACT LIKE MY LAP IS AUTOMATICALLY YOUR PILLOW...

SUU (DOZE)

NOT BE FOUND...

BEST DEFENSE...

YOU MEAN YOUR PAJAMAS? WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH—

CAMOUFLAGE TOO.

PERFECT.

BORI
ボリボリ
BORI
(SCRITCH)

...I GUESS SO.

...
YES.

NEITHER OF US HAS EVER BEEN TO BATTLE.

SHE'S SEEN MORE OF THE FIRES OF WAR THAN EITHER OF US.

GABU (CHOMP)

GARI

GARI (CRUNCH)

MMM... SALTY TOO MUCH.

GIRI (GNAW)

AHHH!!

DEAR BROTHER, FROM NOW ON, LET US CLEANSE OURSELVES TOGETHER ON A REGULAR BASIS.

HMM.

Y—

YOU GUYS REALLY ARE GANGING UP ON ME...

episode 13: END

CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS

IS THIS...?

THAT IS LADY LUCIE'S...

Y-YES...

...MARKS MY SISTER'S...

THIS STONE BY THE WAY-SIDE...

Episode 10:
Dominica

CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS

PO ポッ

PO (DRIP) ポッ

ZAAA (FSHHH)

...LUCIE.

DOMI-
NICA!

DEAR
SISTER!

TA
(TAP)

TA

TA

TA

!

OH?

BA
(HUG)

THERE
YOU ARE,
DOMINICA!

WHAT IS ALL THIS FUSS ABOUT, LUCIE?

GUESS WHAT!

GUESS WHAT!

スッ SU (SFX)

I GOT THIS FOR YOU!

THANK YOU, LUCIE.

BUT I DON'T THINK IT SUITS ME...

.....

IF YOU ASK ME, IT'S THAT THING AT YOUR HIP THAT DOESN'T SUIT YOU.

WE MAY BE IN DECLINE, BUT THE ŠKODA FAMILY STILL FOLLOWS THE WAY OF CHIVALRY.

I CANNOT GIVE UP MY SWORD.

DA (DASH)

LUCIE!

I...MUST GO PUT THESE ON MOTHER AND FATHER'S GRAVE.

GU (CLENCH)

...

I WENT OUT HUNTING TODAY...

I MET A HUNTSMAN WHO SHARED SOME OF HIS DUCK WITH ME.

I'M A FISH OUT OF WATER IN THE KITCHEN.

SO, ER, UM...

くるっ

KURU (WHIRL)

YOU ARE SO HOPELESS, SISTER!

YOU CAN'T EVEN MAKE A DECENT MEAL WITHOUT ME!

THE ŠKODA FAMILY IS A FAMILY OF KNIGHTS, BUT THEY ARE RURAL NOBLES WITH ONLY A SMALL PLOT OF LAND.

IT WAS ALL THEY COULD DO TO CONTINUE THEIR MODEST LIFESTYLE WHILE MAINTAINING A MINIMAL LEVEL OF HONOR.

THEIR FATHER WENT TO WAR TO RESTORE THE ŠKODA NAME BUT NEVER RETURNED. THEIR MOTHER DIED OF AN ILLNESS A FEW YEARS LATER.

SINCE THEN, THE YOUNG NEW FEUDAL LORD, DOMINICA, AND HER YOUNGER SISTER, LUCIE, LEANED ON EACH OTHER FOR SUPPORT.

OF COURSE, EVEN A SMALL DOMAIN IS A DOMAIN, AND THE TAXES THEY COLLECTED WERE ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THE TWO GIRLS.

...OR THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN.

THE TRUE HEAD OF THE FAMILY HAD PASSED AWAY, AND NO ONE WOULD FOLLOW A YOUNG, FEMALE KNIGHT.

ALTHOUGH SHE HAD FORESEEN SUCH AN OUTCOME, SHE COULD NOT PREVENT THE GRADUAL DECLINE IN COLLECTED TAXES.

GI (CREAK)

WHEW ...

THE ŠKODA FAMILY HAD NO POWER TO DISCI-PLINE ITS PEOPLE.

I HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO REBUKE THEM.

...YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

YOU WOULDN'T REALLY GO OFF TO WAR, WOULD YOU?

LUCIE.

...I CAN WIN US MORE LAND, OR I MAY BE able TO TRADE OUR LAND FOR AN AREA AWAY FROM THE FRONT LINES.

IF I CAN MAKE A NAME FOR MYSELF IN THE WAR...

I'M DOING THIS FOR YOU.

GASHAN (CRASH)

THEN!!!

IF YOU'RE REALLY THINK-ING ABOUT ME...

...THEN WHY ...?

...I AM SORRY, LUCIE.

WE HAVE NO SUPPORTERS. IF I'M GOING TO PROTECT YOU, I...

I HADN'T HAD ANY FORMAL MILITARY TRAINING, AND THERE WERE ONLY SO MANY WAYS THAT I COULD MAKE A NAME FOR MYSELF.

IN FACT, IT WOULD BE FAIR TO SAY THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY.

FROM THE START, I NEVER HAD A CHOICE.

BUT...

...THE WAR IS OVER.

ZAAAAAAAAAA (FSHHHHHH)

I WENT INTO THE CASTLE...

...AND BY THE TIME I FOUND LADY LUCIE, SHE WAS ALREADY ...

...Y-YES, MILADY!

TELL ME WHAT HAP-PENED TO HER.

SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS SLEEPING PEACEFULLY, SURROUNDED BY ALL HER DOLLS...

SHE HAD PASSED AWAY...

IZOKU (SHUDDER)

LADY DOMINI-CA...?

HEH HEH HEH.

HEH ...

A A A A A A A A A A A A A A

DOES THIS MEAN I WAS WRONG !?

I GAVE EVERY-THING I HAD!!

BASHA (SPLASH)

I'VE GAINED UNSHAK-ABLE POWER !!!

EEP...!

DON'T FOLLOW ME!!

GO. (WHOOSH)

IT'S... ENOUGH ...!

NONE OF IT...

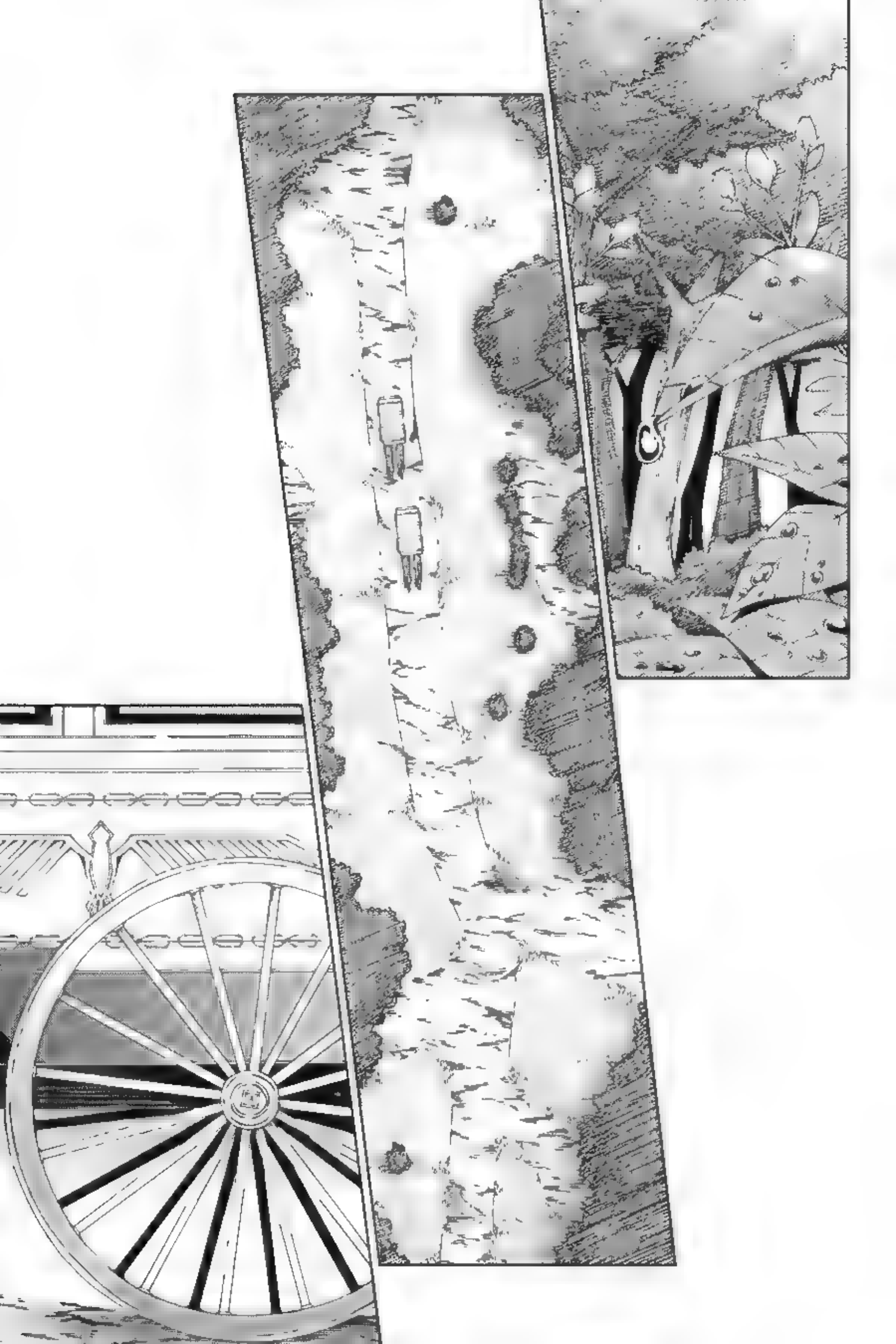
...MAT-TERS ANY-MORE.

RRRR...

ZAAAAAA (FSHHHH)

アアアアア

OOOOOOOO
(ROOOARRRRR)



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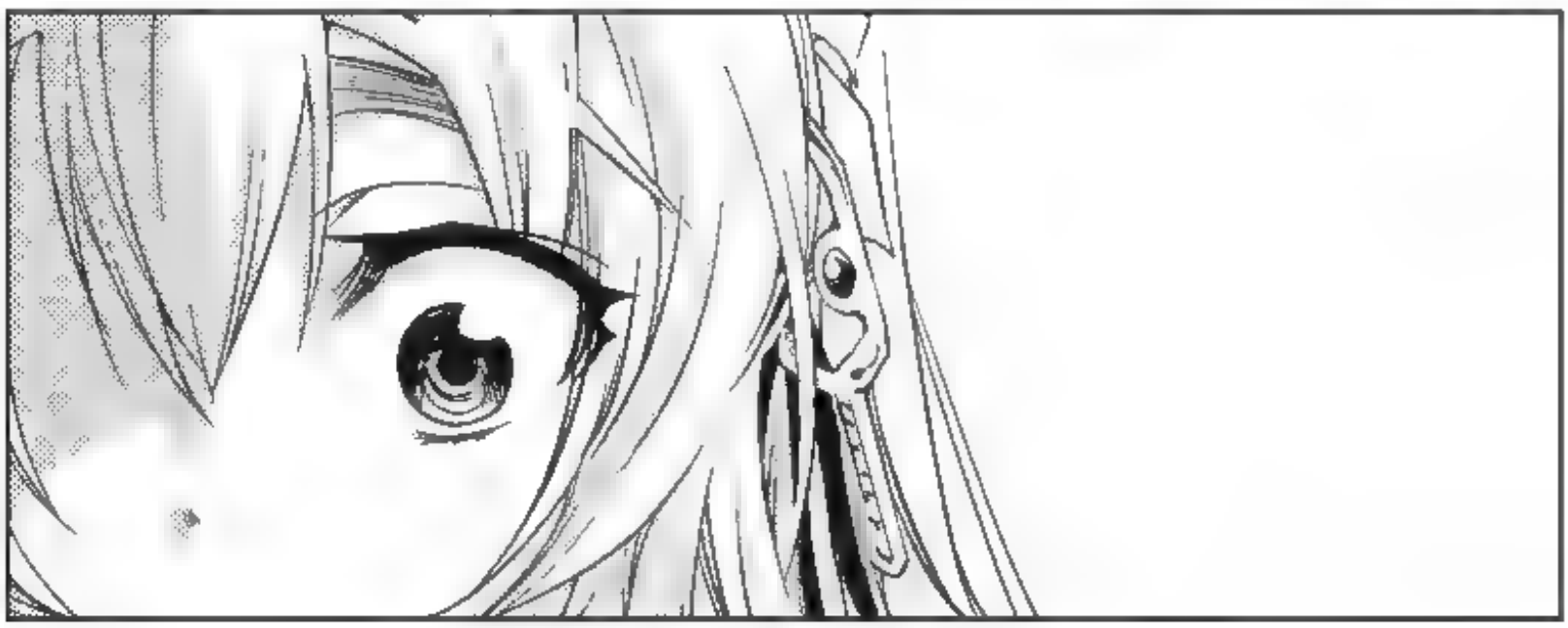
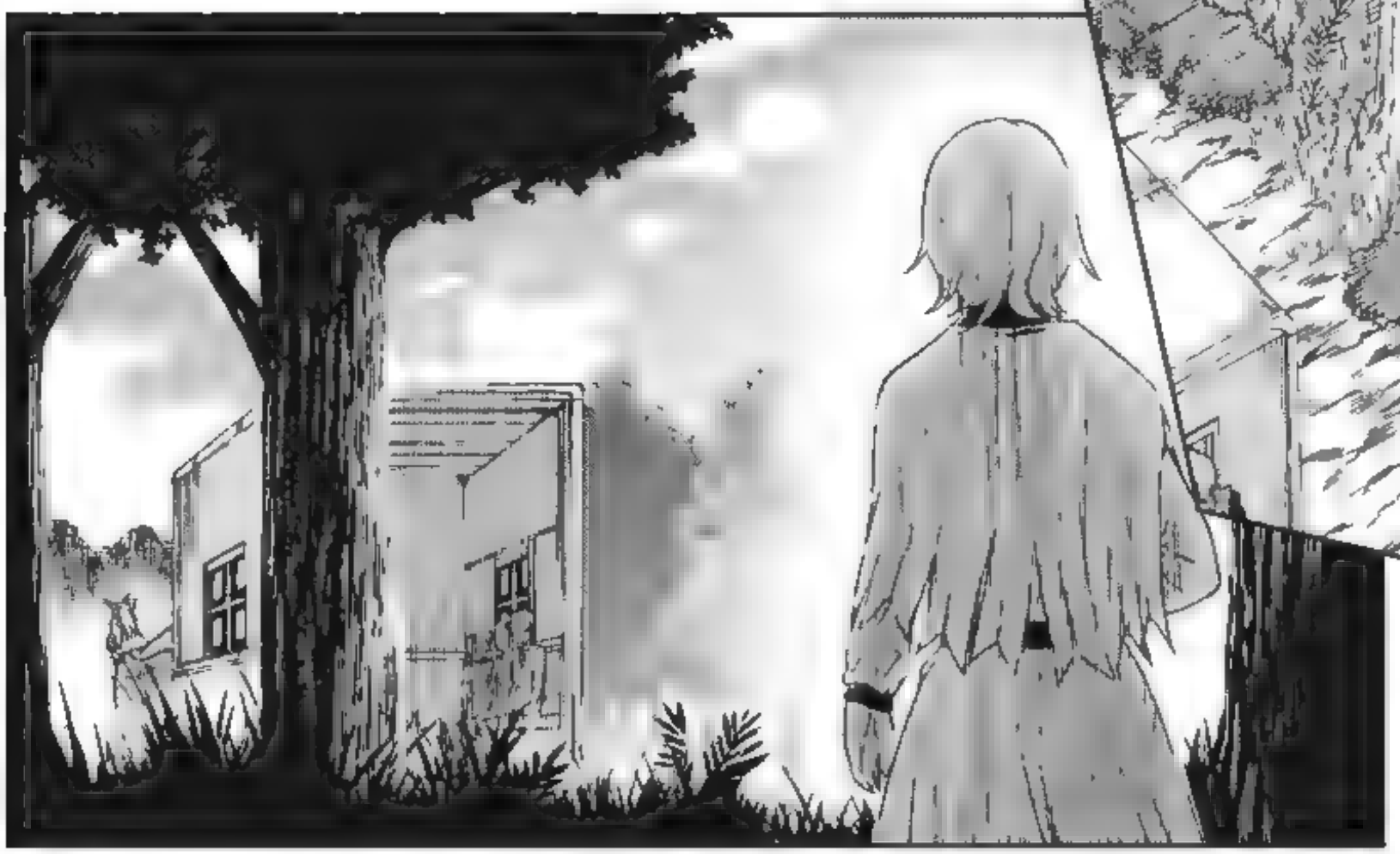
(WHISPER)



ゴト
GOTO
ゴト
GOTO
(CLUNK)
ゴトゴト
GOTO
GOTO
WE'RE GONNA NEED TO GET OUR OWN WHEELS.



episode 14: END

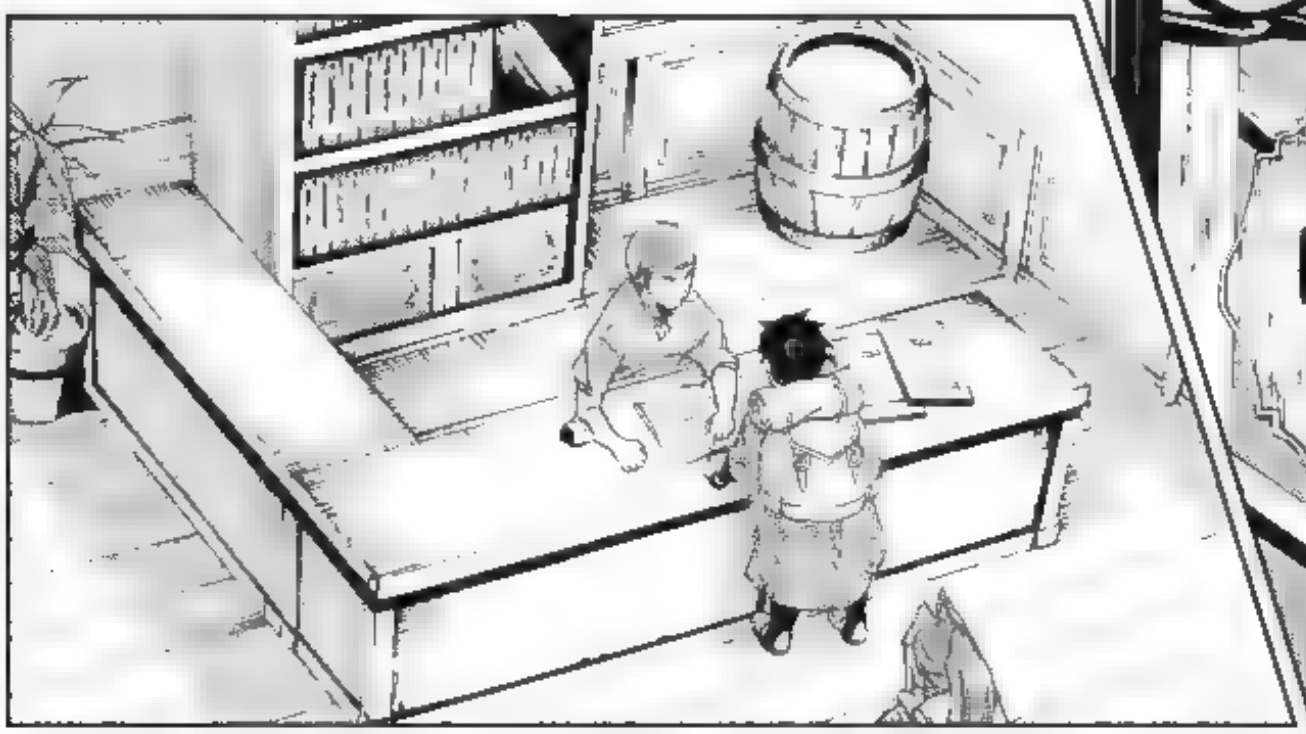
CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS

episode 15: Immediate Concerns

episode 15:

Immediate Concerns

CITY OF IBSOM, VERBIST CONTINENT



ガシャ ガシャ
GASHA
GASHA (CLANK)
GYO (GAPE)

ドサッ
DOSA (THUD)

WHEW.

FINALLY, WE CAN RELAX...

THAT'S RIGHT, DEAR BROTH-ER.

...THAT.

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOME-THING ABOUT...

STILL...

S-STILL HOPE FOR FUTURE!

NO.

I'M NOT TALK-ING ABOUT YOUR CHEST.

NO, NO. I WOULDN'T DO THAT.

NO, BAD!

YOU MAYBE THROW AWAY?

PEOPLE GAWK AT IT WHEREVER WE GO— PEOPLE ON THE ROAD, THE INN-KEEPER...

I MEAN THE COFFIN.

IT'S LIKE TELLING YOUR ENEMIES EXACTLY WHERE YOU ARE.

WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FUDGE YOUR LOOKS, BUT THAT COFFIN IS A DEAD GIVEAWAY.

"A SILVER-HAIRED GIRL WITH A COFFIN ON HER BACK."

ALL I'M SAYING IS, YOU'RE TOO CONSPIC-UOUS.

コトン コトン
GOTO GOTO (CLUNK)

TH-THEN MAKE INTO CART.

DISGUISE!

THAT WOULD MEAN TOSSING OUT YOUR GUNDO AND THE CORPSE.

ZA ZA ZA (ZSH)

THEN WE ALL THREE CARRY COFFIN!

AND WHEN THE ENEMY ATTACKS, THEY'LL WIPE US ALL OUT IN A SPLIT SECOND.

...SHIELD?

GAN (CLANG)

YEAH RIGHT!!

GO AHEAD AND TRY IT!

GON (KLONG)

HRRM

THEN, TORU! YOU HAVE SOME GOOD IDEA?

WELL, KIND OF.

I MEAN, IT'S KIND OF OBVIOUS WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT.

THEN YOU TELL ME FAST!

GUUU (GURRGLE)

WELL, NEVER MIND THAT NOW. LET'S GET SOME-THING TO EAT.

AKARI, WILL YOU ORDER US SOMETHING? THE BIGGEST SERVINGS YOU CAN GET.

VERY WELL.

NOT ANSWER QUESTION, BAD!

PATAN (SHUT)

.....
.....

OH, CHAIKA... YOU'RE BOTH BEHAVING AS IF MY BROTHER IS THE EMPLOYER.

GU (CLENCH)

AND DEAR BROTHER... YOU ARE THE EMPLOYEE, AND YET YOU DEMAND FOOD AS IF YOU ARE IN ANY KIND OF POSITION TO DO SO... AND THAT REALLY TURNS ME ON!

モグ

MOGU (MUNCH)

SAKU (STAB)

I'M VERY SORRY.

BUT WHEN ALL YOU DID WAS EAT AND NEVER WORK, I MUST SAY, I DID NOT FEEL VERY ALIVE.

A MAN REALLY FEELS LIKE HE'S ALIVE WHEN HE'S EATING.

NOT THAT!

CHAIKA, IF YOU'RE NOT GONNA EAT THAT MEAT, THEN LET ME HAVE IT.

GU (SHOVE.

CHAIKA, YOU HAVE A LOT OF MONEY, RIGHT? LIKE A WAR FUND, OR SOME-THING?

AS I SAID BEFORE, IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS.

YOU'RE MORE PERSISTENT THAN YOU LOOK.

I KINDA FEEL BAD NOW.

THING YOU SAID BEFORE! TELL ME FAST!

WE'RE NOT ALWAYS GOING TO BE LUCKY ENOUGH TO HITCH A RIDE ON A CARRIAGE LIKE WE DID TODAY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE DON'T WANT TO CALL ATTENTION TO OURSELVES.

WE NEED TO FIND SOME OTHER WAY TO GET AROUND, LIKE A CARRIAGE OR A VEHICLE OR SOMETHING.

WHAT IF WE WERE TO BUY A USED VEHICLE OR A SMALL HORSE-DRAWN CARAVAN?

...PROBABLY CAN?

CARRIAGES AND VEHICLES EACH HAVE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES.

BUT CONSIDERING ITS MOBILITY AND EVERYTHING, A VEHICLE WOULD PROBABLY BE BEST.

WE DO HAVE A WIZARD WITH US, AFTER ALL.

IF WE BUY A VEHICLE, THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO RUN IT. WOULD YOU BE OKAY WITH THAT, CHAIKA?

CLEVER TORU...!

GOOD THINK!

CUT IT OUT!

LIKE I SAID, IT'S THE OBVIOUS SOLUTION.

PISHI OKRAK

YES! I MAY BE BAD DRIVER!

BUT I TRY!

KOTO CCLLINK

コト

KASHA CCLINK

カシャ

MAYBE WE SHOULD GET A CARRIAGE AFTER ALL.

WHY!?

episode 15: END

CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS

DOES SHE EVEN REALIZE WHY WE NEED A MODE OF TRANSPOR-TATION IN THE FIRST PLACE?
GEEZ, CHAIKA. "I GO TOO!" SHE SAYS.

I MIGHT GET SOME INFOR-MATION AT THE MARKET-PLACE.

OH, COME ON.

DAN (BAM)

THEY CAUGHT UP TO US ALREADY ...!?

episode 16:

Collaborator

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MASTER GILLET?

NOTHING.

...OH.

GOOD QUES-TION...

BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK? I'M WONDERING IF WE MIGHT HAVE OVERLOOKED SOMETHING.

ANYWAY, NOW WE'VE GOTTEN THE WORD OUT TO ALL THE MOST LIKELY TOWNS.

THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY'D GET A CARRIAGE ASIDE, IN TERMS OF VEHICLES, I'M A LITTLE CONCERNED THAT WE WEREN'T ABLE TO NARROW DOWN THE EXACT NUMBER OF EACH PART THAT WAS BOUGHT AND SOLD.

IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CONSTRUCT A VEHICLE ONE PART AT A TIME, BUT EVEN IF THEY COULD, IT WOULD TAKE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME.

NOW WE'VE PRETTY MUCH TAKEN THE DEMON KING'S DAUGHTER'S LEGS OUT FROM UNDER HER...

...BUT ONLY IF THOSE SABOTEURS ARE HER ONLY COLLABORATORS.

I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT. THANK YOU.

AND YOU'RE AN EXPERT, SO IF YOU SAY SO, IT MUST BE TRUE.

WHAT IS IT, ZEETA?

OH.

NO, I REALIZE THIS IS FORWARD OF ME TO ASK, BUT...

I MEAN ...

...EXACTLY HOW DID CHAIKA GAZ SURVIVE THESE LAST FIVE YEARS?

PROVIDED THAT SHE IS THE REAL CHAIKA, OF COURSE.

I FEEL LIKE SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT.

ARE YOU SAYING SHE'S A FAKE?

UMM.

NO, NOT THAT.

IT JUST SEEMS LIKE WE MIGHT HAVE THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT SOMETHING VERY FUN-DAMENTAL.

PON (PAT)

THAT IS A VALUABLE POINT OF VIEW. THANK YOU.

THE WRONG IDEA, HM?

SHE MAY BE RIGHT.

DAM-MIT!

WHAT DO I DO?

AND NOW WE CAN'T JUST GO TO A DIFFERENT TOWN EITHER.

WHAT DO WE DO...? STEAL SOMEONE'S CAR?

NO, THE CAR'S GONNA HAVE TO COME LATER!

WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF THAT INN, AND FAST!

DAM-MIT!

HFF!

HFF!

HI, THERE.

TO
(TMP)
BA
(PWSH)

WHO IS THIS KID?

I'M SORRY.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU.

!

NO NEED TO PANIC. CHAIKA GAZ IS FINE.

...WHO ARE YOU?

I KNOW.

CALL ME "GUY."

THAT'S A TRICKY QUES-TION.

STILL, IT WOULD BE AWKWARD IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE SOME-THING TO CALL ME.

IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE'S NOT EVEN ALIVE...

WHO IS HE?

ZA CZSHD

ZA

ZA

WHAT DO I DO?

WHAT DO I DO?

WHAT DO I DO!?

TO
OSHINO

AW, WHAT WAS THAT FOR?

SO VIOLENT.

MAYBE YOU SENSED SOME-THING?

YOU'RE THE ONE ACTING CRAZY.

THAT... IS NUTS !!

IF SO...

...THEN CHAIKA GAZ HAS MADE QUITE THE FIND.

LET ME SEE. TO PUT IT SIMPLY...

OH RIGHT. WE WERE TALKING ABOUT ME.

...AS SOMEONE WITH HIGH HOPES FOR HER.

...JUST THINK OF ME AS CHAIKA GAZ'S COLLABORA-TOR. OR IF THAT'S TOO HARD TO SWALLOW...

COLLABO-RATOR...?

IF SHE HAD A COLLAB-ORATOR, THEN SHE WOULDN'T NEED TO GO OUT OF HER WAY TO HIRE US...

WAIT, IS HE...

...THE ONE SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT?

SORRY, BUT I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY DIRECT HELP.

...I HAVE MY REASONS. IT'S COM-PLICATED.

AND YOU EXPECT ME TO TRUST YOU?

THAT IS YOUR DECI-SION TO MAKE.

THE ONES DOING THE ACTUAL WORK WILL BE CHAIKA AND HER COMPAN-IONS— THAT WOULD BE YOU.

OKAY, LET'S SAY YOU ARE THIS "COLLAB-ORATOR."

SO WHY DID YOU SHOW YOURSELF TO ME?

SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU WERE IN TROU-BLE.

YOU ARE FREE TO ACCEPT MY HELP OR REJECT IT.

IF I FORCED YOU, THAT WOULD REQUIRE ME TO TAKE A DIRECT ACTION, AFTER ALL.

...WHAT?

YOU NEED "LEGS."

AND YOU CAN'T GET THEM. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

SU (SSK)

ARE YOU SAYING YOU'LL GET US SOME TRANS-PORTA-TION?

NO, NO. AS I'VE BEEN SAYING, ALL I CAN DO IS PROVIDE INFORMA-TION.

YOU KNOW THERE'S A FOREST A SHORT WALK SOUTH OF TOWN, RIGHT?

INSIDE THAT FOREST, THERE'S A SMALL POND. NEAR THERE, YOU'LL FIND SOME OLD, SCRAPPED VEHICLES.

THERE WAS A BIG BATTLE ABOUT THIRTY YEARS AGO, AND WHEN IT WAS OVER, THE VEHICLES WERE JUST LEFT THERE.

THERE ARE MORE THAN ONE OF THE SAME MODEL, SO IF YOU SWAP THE PARTS THAT STILL WORK, I THINK YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO REPAIR ONE OF THEM ENOUGH TO GET IT TO FUNCTION.

GOOD QUES-TION.

OH.

IS THAT SOME-ONE YOU?

SHE SAID THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO WOULD SHOW UP SOMETIMES AND GIVE HER NFORMATION ON THE "IMPORTANT THINGS" SHE WAS LOOKING FOR.

THAT REMINDS ME. I'VE LEARNED THE NAME AND LOCATION OF ONE OF THE "HEROES" OF THE BATTLE OF THE GAZ IMPERIAL CAPITAL.

ABOUT TWO DAYS EAST OF HERE, THERE'S ANOTHER FOREST. THERE IS A RESIDENCE THERE.

THE HERO'S NAME IS DOMINICA ŠKODA.

BA (FWP)

WHEN YOU GET YOUR VEHICLE RUNNING, YOU SHOULD GO SEE FOR YOURSELF.

BUT OF COURSE, WHAT YOU DO IS UP TO YOU.

episode 16: END

CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS

episode 17: An Unshakable Feeling of Dissonance

BAN (SLAM)

WE'RE LEAVING. NOW.

NOT EVEN A "HELLO," BROTHER?

IS IT THEM?

YES. THEY'RE ALREADY IN TOWN.

DID ANY-ONE FOL-LOW YOU?

NO, THEY DIDN'T SEE ME. I NOTICED THEM FIRST.

BUT WE HAVE TO BE ON OUR GUARD.

?

AND THERE'S SOME-THING THAT WORRIES ME...

TORU.

ANY PLACE ...

...TO GO?

COME ON, CHAIKA. GET READY TO LEAVE.

WE'RE ON THE RUN AGAIN.

ANH!

BASA (FWOOSH)

.....

JUST ONE.

episode 17:

An Unshakable Feeling of Dissonance

WHY TORU...
..IS QUIET?
AKARI, AKARI.
WHAT IS IT?

QUIET? HOW DO YOU MEAN?

HE NOT SAY ONE WORD AFTER LEAVE TOWN.

HMM, I SEE.

THINK ABOUT IT, CHAIKA.

IT MUST BE "THAT TIME OF THE MONTH."

HE'S TRYING SO HARD TO SUPPRESS HIS STRONG URGES.

SHE'S RIGHT. THIS MIGHT BE SERIOUS.

SUTA (STRIDE) SUTA (STRIDE)

スタ スタ

...THERE IT IS.

VEHI-
CLES!

TORU, THIS IS...?

OH... YEAH, IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD ANY PROOF, BUT...

WAIT A MINUTE, BROTHER.

IF WE EXCHANGE SOME PARTS, MAYBE WE CAN GET ONE OF THEM TO WORK.

THEY'RE LESS OLD AND RUN-DOWN THAN I THOUGHT THEY'D BE.

IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO COLLECT THIS MUCH INFORMATION IN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

HOW ON EARTH DID YOU KNOW WE WOULD FIND THESE HERE?

WHAT?

I DON'T REALLY KNOW MYSELF...

AND I BELIEVE THIS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHY YOU WERE SILENT ALL THE WAY HERE?

TORU?

FOR NOW, I GUESS IT WOULD BE FASTEST TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED.

I HAVEN'T WORKED IT ALL OUT IN MY HEAD.

I AM APPALLED.

ARE YOU SAYING YOU BROUGHT US OUT TO THIS FOREST BASED ON THE ADVICE OF A COMPLETE AND UTTER STRANGER?

...YEAH, PRETTY MUCH.

GASHA (CLANK)

BUT... HOW CAN I EXPLAIN IT...?

OF COURSE IT DID.

PAN (CLAP)

PAN

IT DIDN'T OCCUR TO YOU THAT IT MIGHT BE A TRAP?

NO. I DON'T KNOW. IT WASN'T LIKE THAT EXACTLY... ANYWAY, I DIDN'T SENSE ANY DIRECT HOSTILITY.

WAS HE THAT SKILLED?

I THINK IF HE'D WANTED TO, HE COULD HAVE KILLED ME ON THE SPOT.

AND ONE OTHER THING.

IT WAS LIKE... HE ISN'T LOOKING AT WHAT WE'RE LOOKING AT... LIKE OUR INTERESTS DON'T OVERLAP IN ANY WAY.

I SEE.

DAMMIT.

...I REALLY JUST CAN'T EXPLAIN IT.

NO, DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, DEAR BROTHER.

WE DID FIND A VEHICLE AS A RESULT.

FOR NOW, LET'S JUST SAY THAT YOUR INSTINCTS WERE CORRECT.

IN THE END, I JUST FOLLOWED MY GUT.

SORRY.

TORUUU!

BUN (WAVE)

BUN

OPERA-
TION!

POSSI-
BILITY!

GAIN!

YEAH.

OOF.

YOU'RE
PROB-
ABLY
RIGHT.

OH.

SAY, UH...

CHAIKA...

WHO IS HE TO YOU...?

...TORU?

AH!

NEVER MIND. ANYWAY, WHAT DO YOU NEED?

THEN, WIRES THERE!

BRING!

DEAR BROTH-ER.

WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO AFTER WE'VE ACQUIRED OUR VEHICLE?

RIGHT.

APPARENTLY, ONE OF THE HEROES OF THE WAR LIVES ABOUT TWO DAYS EAST OF HERE.

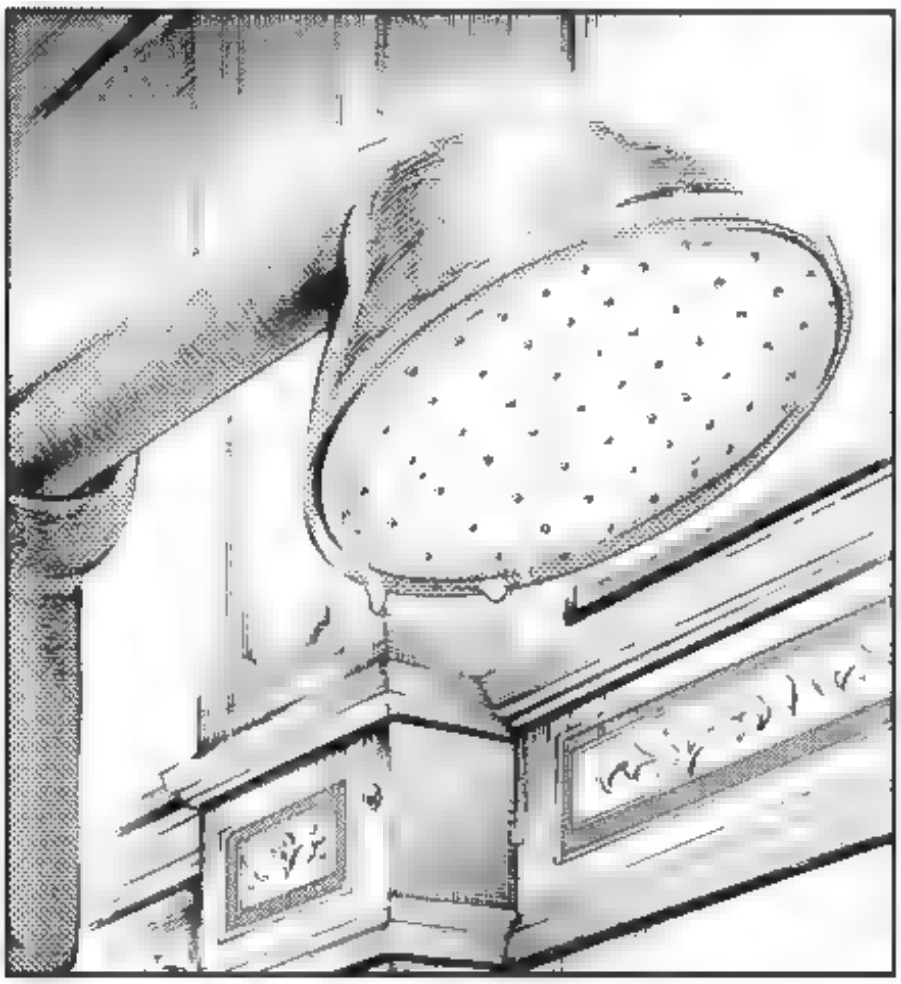
I FEEL PATHETIC SAYING IT, BUT I GOT MORE INFORMA-TION FROM HIM.

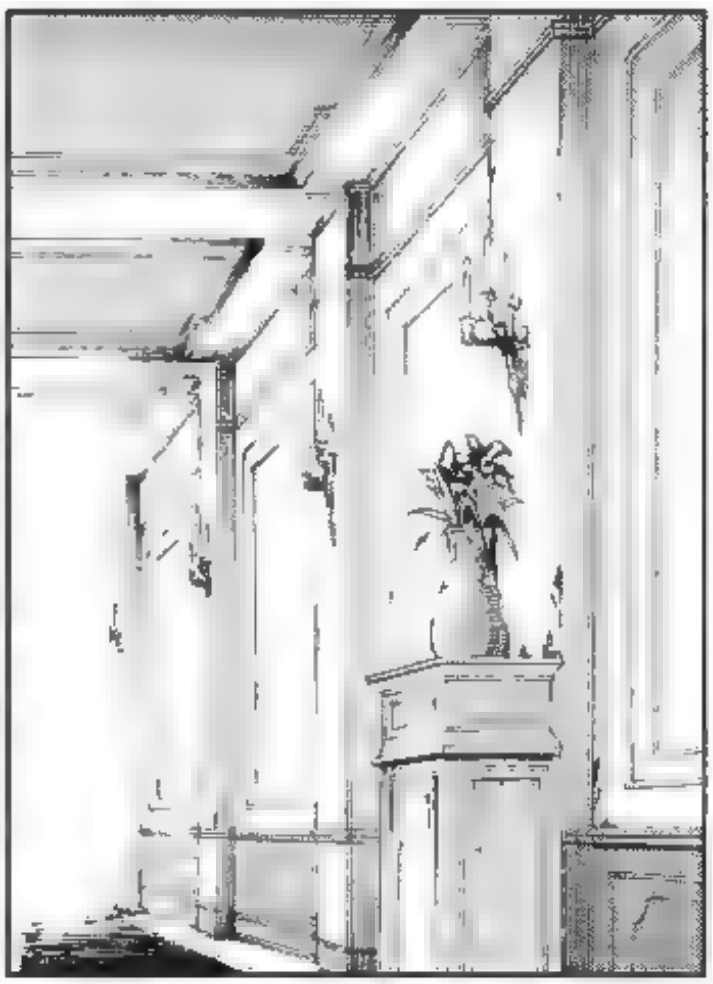
HER NAME IS DOMINICA ŠKODA.

SO FIRST, I THINK WE'LL GO MEET THIS DOMINICA.

I DON'T KNOW WHY...

...BUT I HESITATED TO ASK CHAIKA ABOUT GUY.





CHAPU (SPLISH)

episode 17: END

CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS

from Ichirou Sakaki

THERE ARE SOME BIG RISKS IN ADAPTING A MANGA VERSION OF SOMETHING ELSE. MANGA IS A DIFFERENT MEDIUM OF EXPRESSION, SO IF YOU'RE TOO FAITHFUL TO THE ORIGINAL FORMAT, YOU LOSE SOME OF THE BALANCE NEEDED IN MANGA. BUT IF YOU COMPLETELY IGNORE THE ORIGINAL AND JUST WRITE WHATEVER YOU WANT, THEN FANS OF THE ORIGINAL WILL CRITICIZE YOU FOR THAT. IT ACTUALLY HAS A PRETTY HIGH DIFFICULTY LEVEL; THERE IS NO CLEAR RIGHT ANSWER. IN THAT SENSE, SAKAYAMA-SAN'S MANGA VERSION CONFORMS TO THE NOVEL BUT SEAMLESSLY WEAVES ORIGINAL ELEMENTS ALL THROUGHOUT, AND WHAT SURPRISES ME IS HOW NATURALLY SAKAYAMA-SAN ACCOMPLISHES THIS AMAZING FEAT. ESPECIALLY THE WAY HE WRITES THE DIALOGUE—IT'S THE SAME AS WRITING A NOVEL IN THE SENSE THAT IT INVOLVES EXPRESSION THROUGH THE WRITTEN WORD, AND THE SECOND YOU GET CARELESS ABOUT IT, THE READER IMMEDIATELY THINKS, "THAT'S NOT RIGHT." BUT HE'S MASTERED EVEN AKARI'S UNIQUE TURN OF PHRASE, AND IT ALMOST SEEMS LIKE HE'S PORTRAYING *CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS* BETTER THAN THE ORIGINAL. I THINK IT MUST BE VERY DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN THIS DENSITY, THIS QUALITY, IN A MAGAZINE SERIES, BUT AS THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR, I AM FILLED WITH GRATITUDE THAT HE DOES.

ICHIROU SAKAKI

from Namaniku ATK

WORKING AWAY FROM HOME

AFTERWORD

WHOA...

CONGRATULATIONS ON RELEASING VOLUME THREE!! I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF OF IT, ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE EXPLOITS OF THE LONG-AWAITED, LARGE-BUSTED *CHAIKA* CHARACTERS (MONOTONE VOICE)!

BA-BAM!

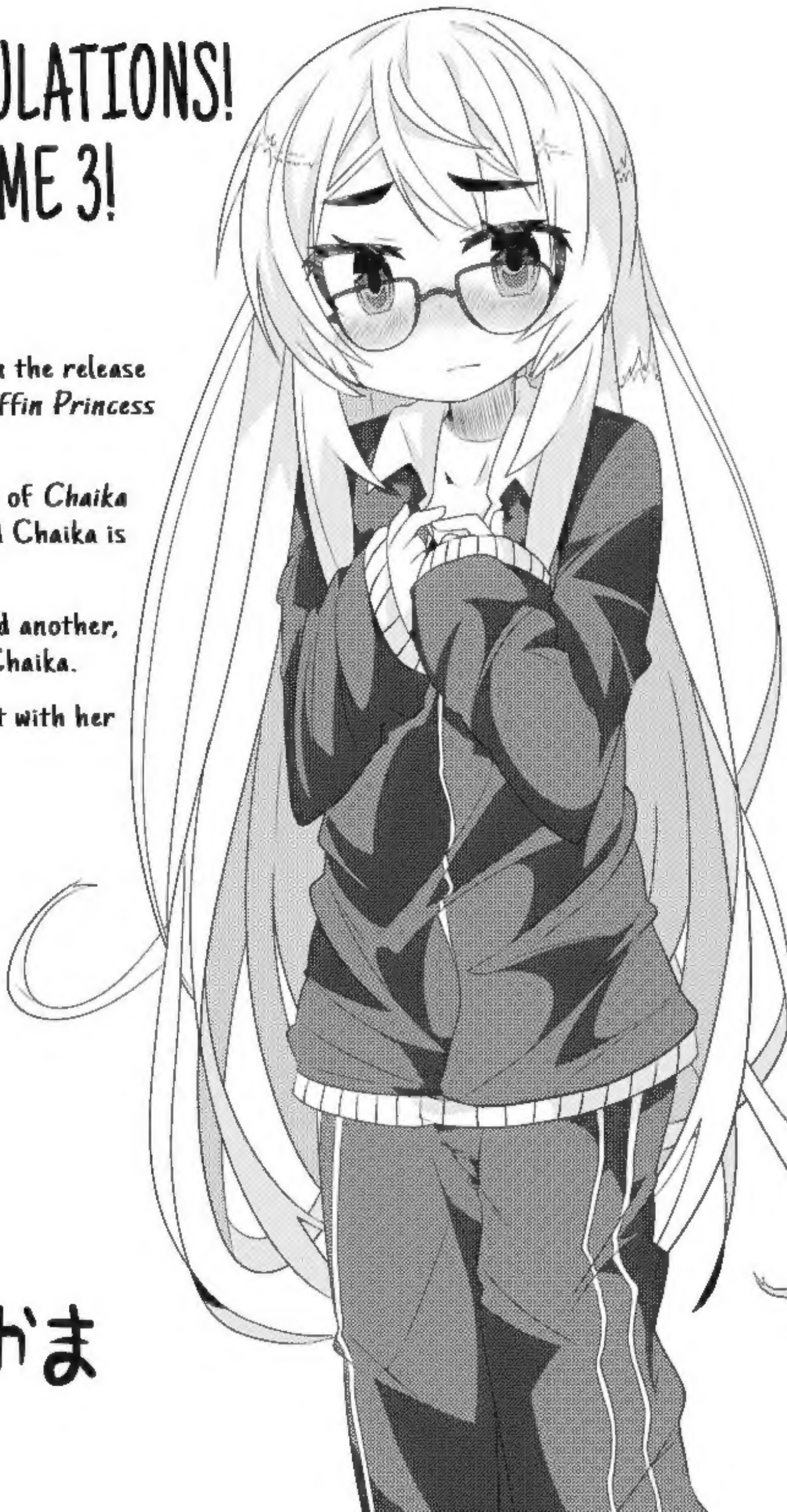
CONGRATULATIONS! VOLUME 3!

Congratulations on the release of *Chaika: The Coffin Princess* Volume Three!

The manga version of *Chaika* is so much fun, and Chaika is so cute!

After one thing and another, I drew an indoor Chaika.

I'd like to hang out with her inside...



KANIKAMA
かにかま

THANK YOU FOR BUYING VOLUME THREE OF CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS.

IN THIS VOLUME, THE CONFLICT WITH GILLET'S TEAM COMES TO A TEMPORARY CLOSE, AND WE MOVE RIGHT INTO A NEW ARC. THIS VOLUME TAKES PLACE AROUND VOLUME TWO OF THE NOVELS, BUT I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF WRITING ONE CHAPTER THAT'S NEARLY ALL ORIGINAL MATERIAL. THOUGH IT COULD BE THAT I WAS JUST SPEWING OUT MY OWN APPETITES FOR FANTASY MANGA—WHICH IS TO SAY, IF IT'S A FANTASY MANGA, THERE HAS TO BE A BATHING SCENE...! I USUALLY FOLLOW THE ORIGINAL STORY FAITHFULLY WHEN DRAWING THIS SERIES, SO NOW THAT I'VE TRIED IT, I BOW MY HEAD AT HOW HARD IT IS TO COME UP WITH YOUR OWN STORIES.

AND THERE ARE NEW CHARACTERS IN THIS VOLUME, SO I HOPE I CAN FILL THE NEXT VOLUME WITH ALL KINDS OF NEW MATERIAL.

AND SAKAKI-SENSEI, NAMANIKU-SENSEI, AND KANIKAMA-SENSEI, THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING!

SHINTA SAKAYAMA
2013.5

CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS

CHAIKA: THE COFFIN PRINCESS ❸

Original Story By: ICHIROU SAKAKI
Manga: SHINTA SAKAYAMA
Character Design: Namaniku ATK (Nitroplus)

Translation: Athena and Alethea Nibley
Lettering: Abigail Blackman

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